

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 19 have been rejected, and Claims 4-18 and 20-22 have been held to define patentable subject matter.

Claims 4, 7, 12, 16, 21, and 22 have been rewritten in independent form, and Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 20. Therefore, these claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 2 and 3, plus the limitation that the handle portion is distinct from the cup. Thus, Claim 1 describes the embodiment of Figures 1-3. In the patent to Borter, the "handle portion" 52 is integral with the cup (it is the "tail portion" of the cap 32, as shown in Figure 5). Borter does not show a handle portion that is distinct from the cup. The present invention has the advantage that the propane tank is not only locked, but can be easily transported, with the aid of the handle. Borter does not share this feature. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Borter.

Applicants have considered the patent to Cappuccio, which was cited but not applied to the claims. Applicants believe that this reference does not affect the patentability of the pending claims.

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration and early favorable action.